



IT'S OFFICIAL: THE NEW HAVEN ARMORY, KNOWN AS THE GOFFE STREET ARMORY, HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.*

This designation recognizes the Armory's significance as a public building over many years—for military purposes, disaster relief, and major community gatherings like the Black Expo in the 1970s and Artspace Open Studios in the 2010s. It is owned by the City of New Haven.

Today, the Armory is closed to the public and the building is damaged. The parapet on the east side of the building (where the Drill Hall meets the Head House) collapsed due to heavy snow during the Winter of 2010-2011. It has not been fixed and conditions get worse every year.

But it's not too late to save the Goffe Street Armory and return it to use as an important public building. We ask you to join us in calling for the City to make the much-needed repairs to the structure. The Armory is a remarkable and irreplaceable civic asset that has the potential to serve the people of New Haven for many years to come

Respectfully,
Elihu Rubin
Publisher, Armory Newsprint

Nadine Horton
Founder, Armory Community Garden

Co-Chairs, Armory Community Advisory
Committee

*Date Listed: 05/19/21 Use this QR code to see the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



ARMORY HISTORY: THE BLACK EXPO

ARMORY HISTORY

A Selective Timeline

1928: Land acquired by State of Connecticut on Goffe Street between County St. and Hudson St.

1930: Armory Opens

1931: New Haven Auto Show held at the Armory

1940: Frank Sinatra plays at the Armory, his first concert in New Haven

1969: Elm City Kennel Club holds 50th Anniversary Dog Show in the Armory

1969: Craftsmens Spring Market held at the Armory

1972-1977: Black Expo held at the Armory

1986: Call for the Armory to be used as temporary homeless shelter

2005: Armory used as collection center for donations received for relief work in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans

2009: 2nd Company of the Governor's Foot Guard leaves for the Branford Armory

2009: Ownership of the Goffe Street Armory transferred from State of Connecticut to the City of New Haven

2011: The brick parapet (where the roof of the Drill Hall meets the Head House) fails.

2012: City-led attempt to secure renovation funds initiated without success.

2014-2017: Citywide Open Studios Armory Weekend held by ARTSPACE

2015-present: Armory Community Garden takes root on the east side of the Armory.

WHAT IS MISSING? SEND A NOTE TO GOFFESTREETARMORY@GMAIL.COM TO FILL IN MORE ARMORY HISTORY!



Jackie Robinson

Be a hitter, not a quitter.

The motto of a great American is the theme of Black Expo '72.

Jackie Robinson lives on today as a symbol of pride, defiance and achievement for all Americans. Black Expo is exciting proof that those qualities are paying off for Black Americans in all walks of life.

Visit Black Expo: Four days of educational fun and entertainment, hundreds of displays and exhibits, all designed to prove the value of Jackie Robinson's beliefs.

Be a hitter, not a quitter.

BLACK EXPO

Sept. 27-30th

Goffe St. Armory, New Haven

Exhibits by major corporations, small businesses, and community agencies. Hours: 9 A.M. - 8 P.M. Admission: Adults 1.00, Children .50



ing success over the weekend at the Goffe Street Armory. children who visited The Register-Journal Courier booth. d. At center, a voting machine demonstration featured at

the newspaper's booth was demonstrated by Register reporter Robert D. Greenlee, second from right. Po most popular of the display booths was the one sponsored by the New Haven Police Department. In photo a group of youngsters watches closely at a complimentary ID card exhibit which was part of presentation.

City's First Black Expo Scores Outstanding Success

per day stream through the



Black Expo '76 Opens



Participants in the official opening of Black Expo '76 at chairperson and State Treasurer Henry Parker. The the Goffe Street Armory this morning included, from event will be open through Sunday. (Staff Photo by left, Ronald Lee, president of the New Haven Board of Education; Mayor Frank Logue; Mattie Turner, Expo

The first Black Expo was held in Chicago three years ago, sponsored by Operation Breadbasket of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and directed by the Rev. Jesse Jackson of Chicago. Since that time there have been more than 30 Black Expos throughout the nation's black

white communities in the state and the region. Designed primarily for black youth so they could see some of the opportunities available to them and see something other than a cultural event, Black Expo surpassed committee expectations.

visitors alike was welcomed by Harris, who said, "I see it, but I can't really believe it. This has been a dream come true," he added. Piques, who coordinated much of the "nuts and bolts" of the event, said, "It was just

jazz group, provided musical entertainment throughout the afternoon and evening hours. But it was the various exhibits that stole the show and the spectators showed their appreciation by visiting all the booths.

finger print cards and for a look-equipped police vehicle. Just prior to closing the Department railroad Big Shot came Northeastern Utility of Springfield offers

"The Black Expo will bring together black people from around the New England area to deal with common problems; to put black business into contact with major corporations for their mutual benefit; to create the opportunity for businessmen and women to exchange information and develop relationships on a day-to-day basis and, finally, to assemble black political leaders to work toward defining and developing a national strategy for the 1972 elections."*

The first Black Expo in 1972, dedicated to the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., drew more than 30,000 attendees over three days. Attendees were urged "to come together, to work together, to learn together... to make things different. To make things better." The second Black Expo honored legendary baseball player Jackie Robinson.

*"The New Haven Black Coalition, The Nation's Oldest Black Coalition (Will Present on Sept. 15-16-17) The First New England Black Expo, Joseph S. Harris General Chairman," The Greater New Haven Black Coalition Weekly, Vol.1, No. 18 (May 29, 1972), p. 1

"I have a dream"

BLACK EXPO
SEPT. 15, 16, 17

SEE THE DREAM COMING TRUE.
Black Expo, one of the biggest expectations of its kind in the country, is coming to New Haven. This exciting show represents the dream of Martin Luther King Jr. coming true: The dream of working together for self-determination, economic independence, and political and cultural awareness.

OVER 200 DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITS.
The Goffe Street Armory will come alive with displays and exhibits of major corporations and many small businesses. Each display will prove what can be accomplished by men with dreams working together. Each display will be an indication of how much more can be done in the future. In addition, many nationally famous

people will conduct workshop seminars in athletics, cultural arts, education, music, politics, and business.

MEET MISS BLACK EXPO.
Preliminary contest held September 11th, 6:00 p.m. at the Q-House, 197 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven. Final judging September 14th, 8:00 p.m., conducted at the Ambassador Restaurant in the Hamden Mart in Hamden. Miss Black Expo will reign as Queen of the 3-day Expo spectacular.

Black Expo represents the dreams of black and minority communities everywhere. Black Expo will be 3 days of education, fun, and excitement for everyone. Come to Black Expo. Help a dream come true.

Admission Prices: \$1.25 Adults; 75 Students; .50 Children

BLACK EXPO

Goffe Street Armory, New Haven, Connecticut

LOCATING THE GOFFE STREET ARMORY

The address for the Armory is 270-290 Goffe Street; it faces DeGale Field (AKA Goffe Street Park) and is located just a little more than one mile away from the New Haven Green. How far away are you from the Goffe Street Armory? Draw your path to the Armory, take a picture, and send to goffestreetarmory@gmail.com. What other important places should also be included on this map? Please write it in, take a picture, and email it to us.



THE CITY'S "BIG ROOM"

The Armory was always intended to be a multi-purpose space. It was the City's "Big Room" for all variety of community events. This historical postcard depicts the set-up for a Junior Prom.



"In 1945, a "Reconversion Conference" was held in the Goffe Street Armory by the Manufacturers Association of Connecticut to address how they would adapt to the postwar consumer market and "re-convert" from wartime manufacturing



ARTSPACE OPEN STUDIOS



Credit: Stephanie Anestis, originally commissioned by Artspace, Inc., for City-Wide Open Studios with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Connecticut Office of the Arts

Between 2014 and 2017, Artspace Open Studios Armory Weekend was held in the Goffe Street Armory, with large-scale and community-based public art commissions along with hundreds of displays by individual artists.

NEWS FROM THE ARMORY COMMUNITY GARDEN



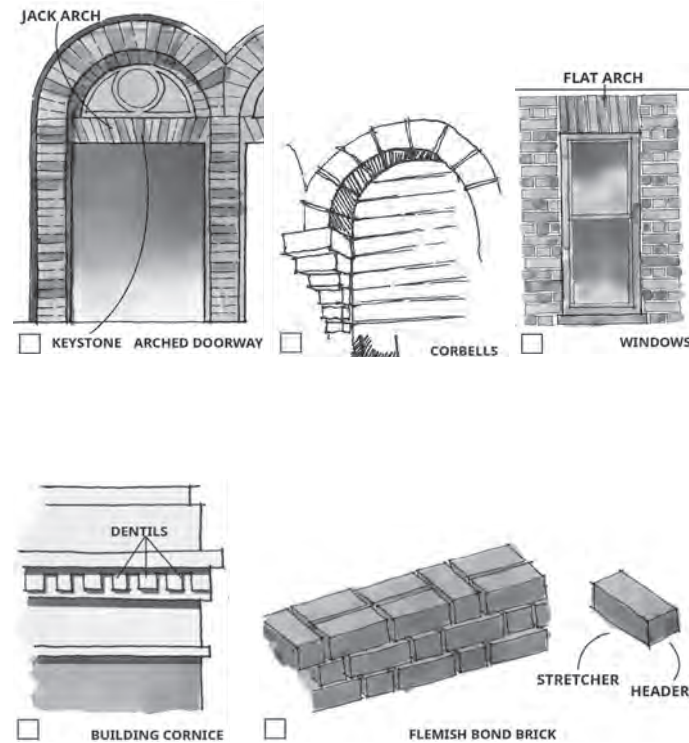
Credit: Elihu Rubin

Farmer D (DiShaun Harris) works with a young community gardener to prepare a raised bed for planting.

Founded in 2015, the Armory Community Garden is part of the Gather New Haven network of community gardens. "At the Armory Community Garden we don't just grow food. We grow people, relationships, and community." Nadine Horton

BUILT IN 1930

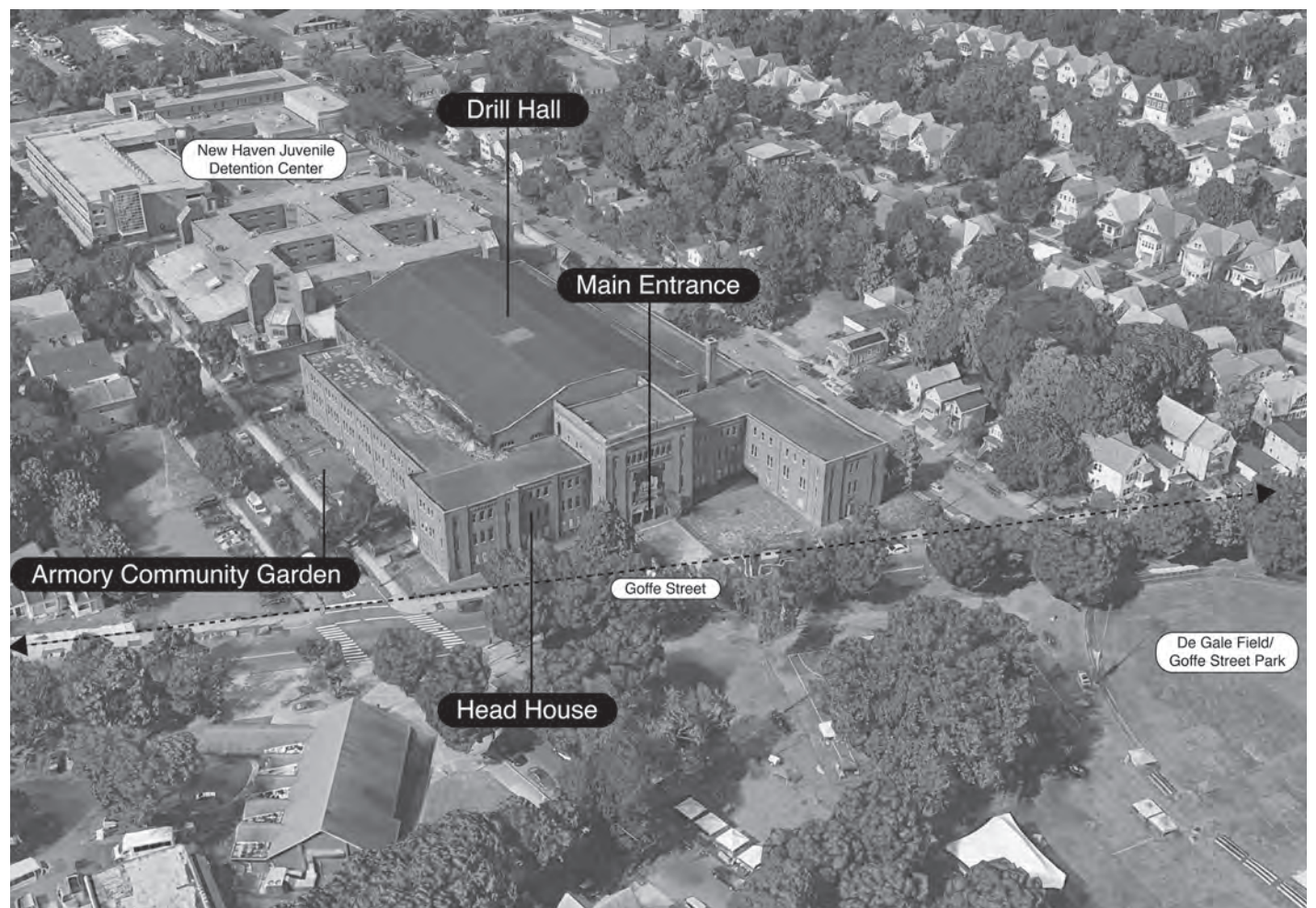
SCAVENGER HUNT



The Goffe Street Armory is a very large building. It contains more than 150,000 square feet of space on a two-acre lot. A three-story, U-shaped "Head House," full of rooms and corridors, wraps around the massive "Drill Hall." An additional wing extends toward Goffe Street; it was built for the 2nd Company of the Governor's Foot Guard. Three arches mark the entrance to the Armory in a central, four-story tower with the words "STATE ARMORY" engraved across the top.

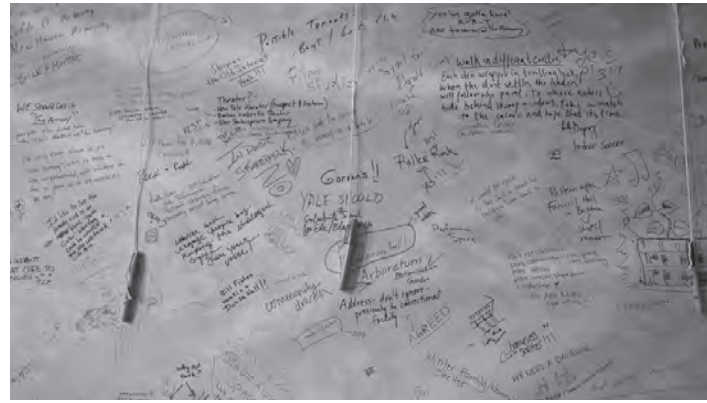
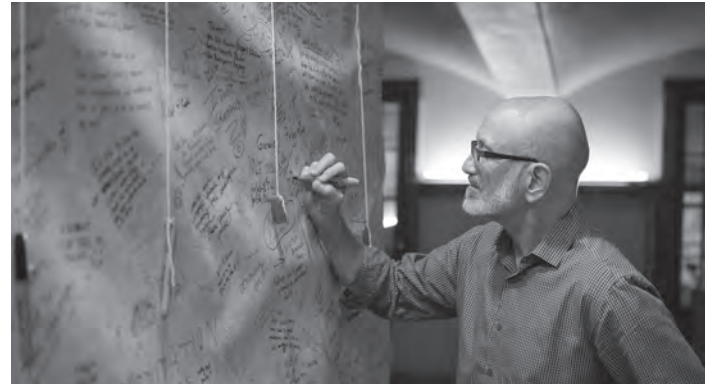
Despite its size, the Armory can sometimes seem to hide in plain sight. We invite you to take a close look at the building and tell us what you see. There are many details hidden in the brick that give the Armory its special presence. Use this "Scavenger Hunt" to identify a few of these details; check them off as you find them

What's your favorite part of the Goffe Street Armory?
Tell us goffestreetarmory@gmail.com



GOFFE STREET ARMORY

COLLECTING IDEAS



Credit: Stephanie Anestis

What activities might take place in a refurbished Goffe Street Armory? Many of us have good ideas. In 2017, at the "Excavating the Armory" exhibit at Artspace Open Studios Armory Weekend, we collected more than 40 ideas from 110 participants on a "FUTURES BOARD." We analyzed the results from this exercise and have created a list, see below.

We included everything that was written on the board. Check the ones you like, take a picture, and send to goffestreetarmory@gmail.com!

40+ IDEAS FOR POTENTIAL REUSE GENERATED BY 110 PARTICIPANTS

Arts & Culture

- Art Mecca
- Artist Studios
- Music Venue
- Theater
- Video Lab
- Movie Theater

Commercial

- Multi Use
- Food Produce & Prepared
- Bookstore space
- Foodbiz Incubator
- Aquarium
- Science Museum
- Airport
- Mall
- Corporate Office

Housing

- Shelter
- Studio Living
- Assisted Living Space
- Housing Project
- Community Hostel
- Grad Housing

Recreation

- Skate Park
- Climbing, Basketball
- Pool
- Dance Space
- Yoga Studio
- Roller Rink

Social Services

- Community Center
- Kids Education Space
- Refugee Space
- Mental Health

Market

- Market(food)
- Flea Market

Garden

- Community Garden
- Butterfly Garden

Government

- Militia Space
- Political Forum Space

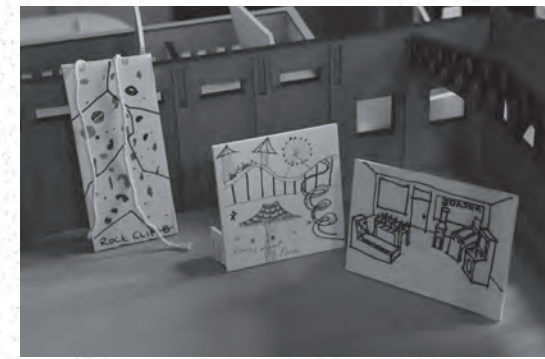
Event Space

- Part Venue
- Industry Coop

Religious

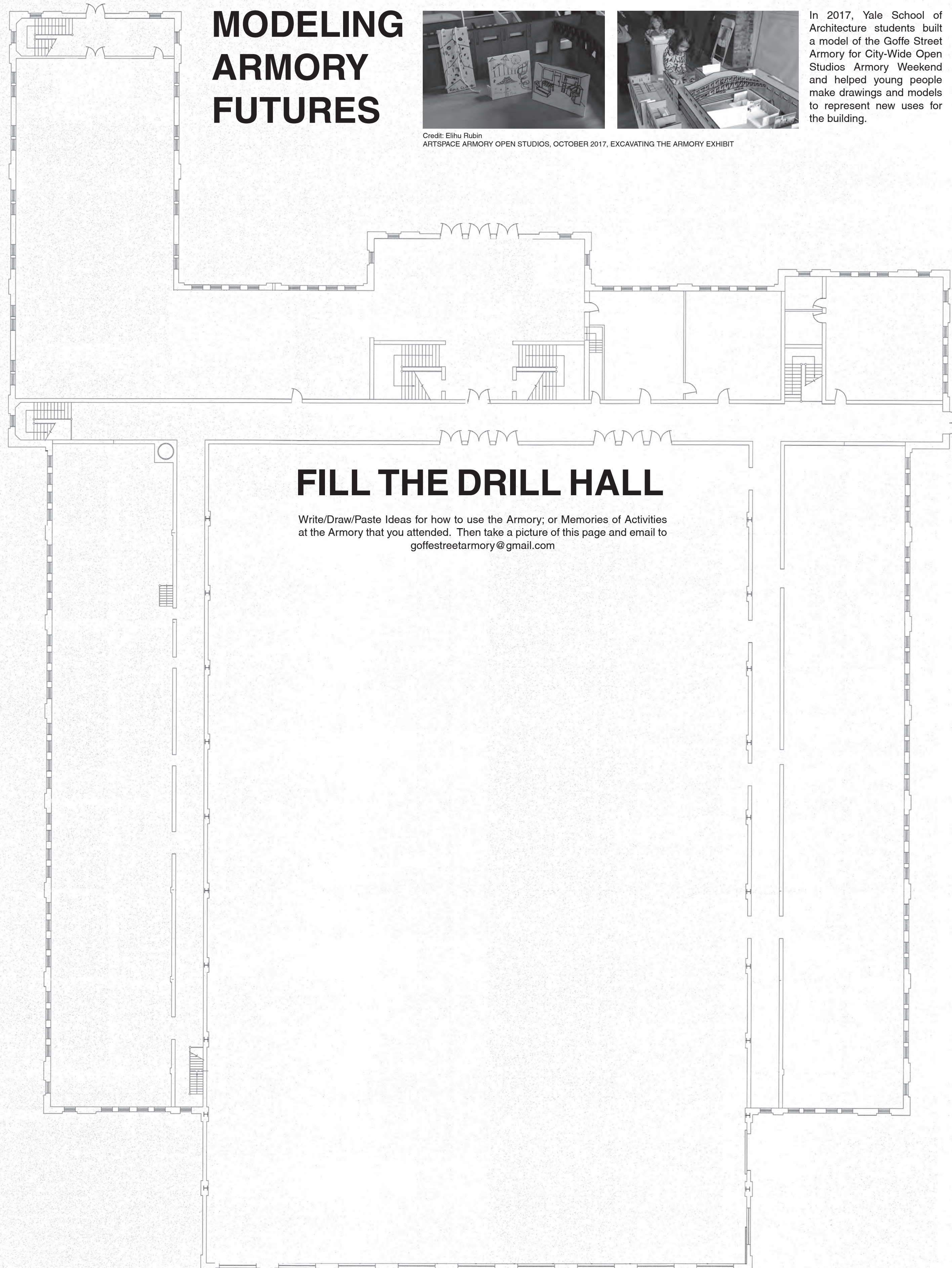
- Buddhist Monastery

MODELING ARMORY FUTURES



Credit: Elihu Rubin
ARTSPACE ARMORY OPEN STUDIOS, OCTOBER 2017, EXCAVATING THE ARMORY EXHIBIT

In 2017, Yale School of Architecture students built a model of the Goffe Street Armory for City-Wide Open Studios Armory Weekend and helped young people make drawings and models to represent new uses for the building.



CURRENT STATUS

As these recent photos show, the Goffe Street Armory is not receiving the attention it deserves from the City of New Haven.

OVERGROWN AND UNMANAGED



A PEAK INSIDE



Credit: Vignesh Harikrishnan

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